Henry James Pye, â??The Snow-Dropâ?•

Description

HENRY JAMES PYE

â??The Snow-Dropâ?•

Hail earliest of the opening flowers!
Fair Harbinger of vernal hours!
Who darâ??st unveil each silken fold
Ere SOL dispels the wintry cold,
And with thy silver leaves displayâ??d
Spread lustre through the dreary glade.Ââ??-
What though no fragrance like the rose
Tincturing the ZEPHYR as it blows,
Thy humble flowers from earth exhale
To scent the pinions of the gale;
What though no hues of gaudy dye
Strike with their dazzling charms the eye,
Nor does thy sober foliage shew
Each blended tint of IRISâ?? bow;
Yet in thy meek unsullied grace
Imaginationâ??s eye shall trace
The glowing blossoms that appear
Proudly to paint the vernal year,
And smiling MAIAâ??s blushing dyes,
And jocund Summerâ??s cloudless skies,
And Autumnâ??s labors which succeed
To bid the purple vintage bleed,
Our hopes anticipating see
Led on in radiant train by thee.

NOTES:

3 *darâ??st* Dares.

4 *Ere* Before; *SOL* Sun.

8 *Tincturing* â??Tinge; imbueâ?• (*OED*); *ZEPHYR* In Greek Mythology, â??the god of the west windâ?• (*OED*).

10 *pinions* Wings (*OED*).

14 *IRISâ?? bow* â??In Greek mythology, the personification of the rainbowâ?• (*Britannica*).

19 *MAIA* â??In Roman Mythology, a goddess of fertility and of the Springâ?• (*OED*).

SOURCE: ***Poems on Various Subjects. Vol. I*** **(London, 1787), pp. 39-40. [*Google Books*]**

Edited by Jiyun An